VII

Count Taaffe's LETTERS FROM THE Imperial Camp;

To his BROTHER the

Earl of Carlingford

HERE IN

LONDON.

Giving an Account of the moſt Conſiderable *Actions*, both before, and at, the Raiſing of the *Siege* at *VIENNA*, together with ſeveral Remarkable *Paſſages* afterward, in the Late *Victorious* Campagne againſt the *TURKS* in *HUNGARY*.

With an Addition of two other *LETTERS* from a Young *Engliſh* Nobleman, a Voluntier in the *IMPERIAL ARMY*.

LONDON,
Printed for *T. B.* and are to be ſold by *William Abbington*, near the *Wonder Tavern* on *Lud-gate-Hill*. 1684.

TO THE READER.

THE *Siege of* Vienna, *and the War of* Hungary *being at present the common Subject of Discourse, I presume it will not be unpleasing to you, if I give you a more faithful and distinct Account of those Successes of the Christian Arms against the Turks, than hath yet been published; an Account not collected from Fame, or Transcribed out of* Mercuries *and* Gazetts, *but Original Letters themselves, which have been already seen and approv'd off, by his MAJESTY and his ROYAL HIGHNESS; and those written by a* Cavalier *of a high Reputation, who was not only present in the Actions of which he writes, but being a general Officer in the* Imperial Army, *bore a considerable Part in them himself. This is the* Lord Taaffe, *a Subject of His Majesties, who to his Elder Brother the* Earl *of* Carlingford, *and to the* Marquiss *of* Grana *Governor of* Flanders, *sends these Letters, in which you may not only discern a vein of Truth, but a certain Modesty and Nobleness of Nature, since without arrogating any thing to himself, he does not omit to do Justice to others; By these Qualities, and his prudent Conduct in a* Forreign COURT, *he hath acquir'd much Esteem*

and

and Truſt with the Emperor, whom he ſerves, the Affection and Confidence of his Highneſs, the Duke of Loraine, and a great Name over all the Empire. So that he does honour not only to himſelf, but to his Country, and to his Loyal Family, and Noble Anceſtors of which he is deſcended. An Example to awake the Vertue of the Engliſh Nation, and make all Gentlemen ſenſible how much more it would be both for their Intereſt and Honour to imploy their Swords in this Occaſion for the Defence of Chriſtendom, than to waſt their Youth in Gaming-houſes and Taverns, and kill one another as they do in ſenſeleſs and brutal Quarrels.

Paſſaw.

VIII

Paſſaw, July 24. 1683:

For the Earl of Carlingford *at* London.

I Had the Honour to hear from you by my Lord *Lanſdowne*, who had he not been very full of Courage and Bravery, the Unhappy State of Affairs here had certainly diverted him from ſo generous a Deſign, but ſince he is reſolv'd to try his Fortune with us, the Duty I owe to the King, and his Royal Highneſs's Commands, the pleaſure I have in obliging ſo gallant a Gentleman as my Lord *Lanſdowne*, and the Intereſt you take therein ingages me to omit nothing for his Service, as well as to ſeek an opportunity to acquire a Friend of his merit.

Inſtead of Seventy thouſand Men, which was promis'd the Duke of *Loraine* to carry on this Terrible War, he never muſter'd yet above Thirty Thouſand; and for theſe two Months we have lain in *Hungary*, we have been Idle, attempting little for fear of leſſening our Strength before the Arrival of the *Ottoman* Forces, having already, what through Sickneſs, and neceſſary Detachments reduced our Army to Three and Twenty Thouſand Men, and that was the utmoſt

moſt of our Force, when the *Grand Viſier* on the Seventh Inſtant, with an Army of at leaſt, One Hundred and Threeſcore Thouſand Fighting Men, poſted himſelf within Cannon-ſhot of us, the ſmall River *Raab* running between, neither do I ſpeak the moſt, but on the contrary all the Priſoners we have taken as well as other Advices make them above Two hundred Thouſand, beſides the *Tartars* and the *Hungarian Rebels*. You may eaſily imagine, my Lord, whether this Appearance did not ſurprize us, having always pleas'd our ſelves with the hopes, That our Alliance with *Poland* might have obliged the *Turk* to divide his Forces, however tho we found the contrary, we yet maintain'd our Poſt that day, and repuls'd Twenty Thouſand *Tartars*, who forded the River under our very Noſes. The Enemy thus finding how difficult it was to force his way to us, ordered out a Detachment of Thirty Thouſand Horſe to ſpread themſelves all along the River over againſt our Right Wing, with a Reſerve of *Hungarians* commanded by the Count *Budiani*, a Nobleman of that Country lately revolted, and being inform'd at night, that the *Turks* were come over the River, without any difficulty, *Budiani*, with the ſaid *Hungarian Rebels* joyning with them, and declaring g-

ring for the Rebel *Teckeley*, as also considering the disproportion in our Numbers, that the River was fordable in several Places, the Enemy possest of all the advantageous Grounds, and able when they pleas'd, under protection of their Canon to force this Passage, and at the same time a great Body of their Horse, who being already on this side, were in a posture to charge us, either in Flank or Rear, his Highness judg'd that Post not safe, quitting it that night, having first put Six Thousand Men into *Raab*, which of all Places, seemed most in danger to be besieged. Our Foot marched towards *Presburgh* by the Isle of *Schutz*, where they were out of the reach of their insulting numbers, and our Horse through the Plains which extend from *Raab* to *Presburgh*.

The *Thirteenth Instant*, I commanded the Rear Guard of Four hundred Horse, when I was attack'd by Two Thousand *Tartars* upon the Plains of *Peternel*, and at the same time as ill luck would have it, they had Alarm'd our Avaunt-Guard, with a Party falling upon our Baggage, and his Highness fearing least the Enemy might cut us off from *Vienna*, where the Emperor with the whole Court as yet was, made the Horse march with all possible speed thither, leaving only behind one Regiment to Mount

the Guard; this Regiment seeing the hasty march of the other *Troops*, supposing it was occasion'd by the *Terror* of those that fell upon us in the Rear, under that apprehension in the most shameful manner in the World fled, without once drawing a Pistol, or offering to stand the least shock of the Enemy; whereupon those Four hundred Horse of the Rear Guard under my Command were surrounded, and I cannot tell by what Providence I was deliver'd, having for at least half an hour marcht *pesle mesle* amongst the Enemy; there was at this time so great a dust that those who fled could not as yet discern the coming of their Succours, and in that confusion disordered several of our own Squadrons that were wheeling to their Relief. The first that rallyed were Five Troops of my Regiment, one *Squadron* being wholely broken by the *Regiment* which fled, the other behaved themselves so bravely, that the poor Prince of *Aremberg* and Count *Millini*, Brother to a Cardinal of that Name, and at present *Nuntio* in *Spain*, both Captains in my *Regiment*, with Prince *Aremberg*'s Cornet, and Eighty Cavaliers were kill'd upon the place.

The Duke of *Lorrain* at length having with much difficulty drawn up the rest of the Horse hastened

haſtned himſelf to us, where finding the foremoſt Squadrons, yet under a panick Fear, alighted from his Horſe at the Head of his Men to let them ſee there was no danger, this Example gave freſh Courage to our Troops, and the Duſt being ſomewhat abated, we diſcovered, that all this Diſorder was only occaſion'd by Six Thouſand *Turks* and *Tartars*; We made up then to them, his Highneſs being in the Head of us, but they would not endure the very ſight of our *Troops*, and 'twas in vain to follow them with our heavy *German Horſe*, ſince our Light Horſe was wanting, the Enemy flying with an incredible Swiftneſs: But we learn'd from this, that which we ſince found, that theſe Six *Thouſand* Horſe were only to cover the groſs of their Army, with the which they thinking it not ſo much for their purpoſe to Attacque *Raab*, as ſuppos'd was firſt deſign'd, were marching directly to *Vienna*. You will perhaps think it very ſtrange that we ſhould be no better inform'd of the Deſign and Marches of the Enemy, but not ſo much when you hear that all *Hungary* was againſt us, and not ſo much as a *Peaſant* but for *Teckeley*. And as for the Party that we ſent out to ſcout on the *Plains* between *Raab* and *Vienna*, there could not a Man of them ha've eſcaped

had they been discovered; such is the Number and Swiftness of the Enemy. To conclude, my Lord, we are in a very desperate Condition. All *Hungary* is against us, the Court removed to *Passaw*, All *Austria* round *Vienna* from *Newstat* and *St. Hippolitt* in flames, and we not able to hinder it, having now only a Body of *Ten Thousand* Horse, at most, left with the Duke of *Lorrain*; *Vienna* has been besieged these ten Days, and had not his Highness, out of his great Prudence and Conduct, clapt in *Ten* or *Eleven Thousand* Men into the *Town*, in that nick of *Time*, and the which was all the Foot he had in his Army, by this time the Place had certainly been lost. *Bavaria* is sending us *Ten Thousand* brave, but unexperienced Souldiers, and we shall be reinforced with *Ten Thousand* more from the *Emperor*. The King of *Poland* is obliged by our *Treaty* to march himself in Person at the Head of his Army to the Relief of *Vienna*, and the least Delay is lookt upon as most dangerous. *Saxony*, *Franconia* and *Brandenburgh* promise us their *Troops*, God grant they may all come in time. If *Vienna* should be taken, I cannot see the end of our miseries, but I hope God will not forsake his Cause, nor the House of *Austria* that has been ever so devoted to him.

From

From the Camp at Angrem, Aug. 17. 1683.

For the Earl of Carlinford *at* London.

I Received yours of the Seventeenth of *July* from *London*, and render God a thouſand Thanks for ſaving our *Royal Maſter* the King and the Duke from that execrable Deſign of thoſe wicked Aſſaſſines; Good God! What Madneſs is this? Let us view all *Europe*, and ſee, if we can find any Subjects ſo well treated, or who do enjoy ſo bleſſed a Peace as thoſe of *England*; Or if there be any Nations in the World that do not envy the Happineſs of ours; I have ſo great a Deteſtation for thoſe Infamous Villains, that I ſhall henceforth look upon *Turks* and *Tartars* as the moſt honeſt Men. You have by this time doubtleſs received the Account I ſent you of our *Campagne* from *Paſſaw*. The Lord *Lanſdowne* delivered it to the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſadour, who promiſed to ſend it in his Pacquet to *Don Petro de Ronquillio* into *England*. The Duke of *Lorrain* has ſince had the good Fortune with Fourteen Thouſand Horſe to give a Defeat to *Teckeley's* Army, conſiſting of *Twenty Thouſand Hungarians*, and *Six Thouſand Turks* near *Presburgh*, where he was going to poſſeſs himſelf of the

the Town, and to be Crowned King of *Hungary*: We marcht up towards them by a *Defile*, [i.e. *Narrow Paſſage*] which they had lined with *Dragoons*, and though the Enemy were drawn up in good Order, they had not the Courage to make any oppoſition: Our Avaunt Guard was ſcarcely paſt, when a Panick Fear ſo ſeized thoſe Rebels, that they preſently fled, leaving the *Turks* to ſhift for themſelves, who for a time retreated orderly, but the *Poles* ſeconded by ſome Regiments of our *Curiaſiers* fell ſo furiouſly upon them that at laſt they were routed, leaving a *Thouſand* of their Men dead behind them, with *Twelve Hundred* Wagons of Baggage, whereof our Men had the plunder, the Rebels Cavalry ſaving themſelves by the Swiftneſs of their Horſes; and the few Foot they had in Woods and Mountains, which were inacceſſible to our Horſe; this blow was ſuch a *Terror* to *Teckeley* that we ſaw him no more. *Vienna* has now been five weeks beſieged, and although the Enemy took their Poſt the Firſt day at the Foot of the *Glaſſis* under protection of the *Suburbs*, which we neglected to demoliſh, they have ſpent four weeks in only gaining one Point of the Counterſcarp, betwixt the *Baſtion* of the Pallace, and that of *Lebell*. Five days ago they

ſprung

ſprung a Mine under the Point of the Ravelin betwixt the ſaid two *Baſtions*, where they gave a furious Aſſault, in hopes to have made a Lodgment of it, but they were repuls'd with great Loſs, and we have it from the Priſoners themſelves, as well as Spies we have in their Camp, that they have already loſt above *Twelve Thouſand Janizaries.* The *Bavarian* Succours of Nine Thouſand Men are already arrived at the Bridge of *Crembs*, thoſe of *Franconia* being Eight Thouſand will be here to Morrow. The Elector of *Saxony* with Ten Thouſand Men more is upon his March, but can hardly be with us before the end of the Month. The King of *Poland* is alſo coming with Three or Four and Twenty Thouſand Men, and we are now about Three and Twenty Thouſand *Imperialiſts*, with which Troops we are reſolved towards the end of this Month to ſuccour *Vienna*, or dye in the Attempt; but if the King of *Poland* delay coming, and we find the Town much preſs'd, we ſhall endeavour the Relief of it without him; they aſſure us that the Emperor intends to be with us in Perſon, and I heartily wiſh it for his greater Glory. We think to paſs the *Danube* at *Crembs*, a little Town about *Ten* Leagues up the River from *Vienna*, the Country thereabouts

thereabouts is very Mountainous and Woody, till you come within a little League of the place. We ſhall have a Body of *Thirty Thouſand* Foot, if the Enemy come to meet us they muſt then forſake ſome of their Poſts, if they do not we ſhall have them betwixt us and the Town, and the Scituation thereof is ſuch, that their Horſe will be of little uſe to them, in which conſiſts their greateſt Force. My Lord *Lanſdowne* is in great eſteem with his Highneſs the Duke of *Lorraine*, and extreamly beloved by all the Officers and beſt Men of our Army.

From the Camp at Korn, Neigburgh *upon the* Danube, Aug. 25*th*. 1683.

For the Earl of Carlinford *at* London.

I Have given you in my Letters under Cover of *Don Petro de Ronquillio*, as well as in thoſe from the Camp at *Maregg*, ſent in the Governour of *Flanders*'s Packquet, a faithful Account of the State of Affairs here; as alſo what hath happened moſt remarkable in this Campagne. The *Twenty Firſt* inſtant, the Duke of *Lorrain* left the *Mark*, a little fordable River that divides *Auſtria* and *Moravia* from *Hungary*, that he might the better get

get to the Banks of the *Danube*, above *Fulme* and *Crembs*, there to paſs over for the diſpoſing Matters for the great Affair, I mean, the relieving of *Vienna*, hoping that thoſe two blows the Enemy had already received, as well as the King of *Poland*'s March towards their Confines, might for a while retard their advancing in the Siege. Yeſterday we encamped at *Stockerau*, where we were told, that a conſiderable Body of *Turks* and *Tartars* had paſt the *Mark*, and we were quickly convinc'd of the Truth of it, by the Flames of Five or Six Villages; which we ſaw Burning within a few Miles of our Camp, it being a barbarous Cuſtom amongſt thoſe Infidels to ſet all on Fire whereſoever they march: Upon this his Highneſs, with a Flying Body of *Ten Thouſand* Horſe reſolved to march immediately towards them; we found them, being about *Twelve Thouſand*, drawn in *Battalia* near the Bridg of *Vienna*. His Highneſs in perſon charged on the right Wing, where the *Turks* gave a furious Onſet, diſordering ſome of our *Poliſh* Troops, but being preſently ſeconded by ſome of our *German* Horſe they were put to flight, with the loſs of *Three hundred* of their Men, and *Five Hundred* more that were ſent from the *Grand Viſier*'s Camp over the *Danube* in Boats,

thinking by the ſame means to ſave themſelves, were ſo hotly purſued, that they were moſt of them drown'd in the River, leaving their Horſes for a booty behind them. Our right wing extended it ſelf to a little Wood, the left Wing, where I commanded ſpreading it ſelf all along the Plains, which the Enemy ſeeing encouraged them to bend their chiefeſt Force againſt us, that they might fall upon us both in the Flank and Rear; but Prince *Lewis* of *Badin* ordering ſome of the Horſe on the Right Wing, by eaſie Movements to cloſe in with us, and the Enemy finding after ſeveral Attempts that they could not break us, but were always repulſed with Loſs, deſpairing of Succeſs, they drew off their Squadrons upon a little Hill within Musket-ſhot of us, by which they kept us from ſeeing any Reſerve, that might poſſibly have lain hid behind them. At the ſame time that they ſeem'd thus ready to engage us, a *hundred and fifty* deſperate *Turks* and *Tartars*, perceiving the diſtance that was betwixt our Squadrons, and the *Right Wing*, ſliping behind the Wood fell upon us in the Rear, but I ordering two Squadrons of our Second Line to charge them, they were quickly diſperſt, and few of them eſcaped. We did expect the Enemy would have made

made uſe of this Diſorder to attack us with their whole Body, but it was far otherwiſe, it ſerving them only as an opportunity to ſave themſelves, by a haſty Retreat; We by this time finding that thoſe Squadrons of theirs drawn up before us upon the ſaid Hill were only to amuſe and cover the Retreat of the reſt, and it had been time loſt to purſue them with our *Curiaſſeers*, who could not overtake them in a Race *Campagne*, they never keeping together, and are very nimble and run with great Swiftneſs, and impoſſible to get them into a Body, unleſs they pleaſe themſelves; Our *Poles* might have indeed purſued them, but ſeem'd unwilling, and his Highneſs judging that they might probably be reinforced by *Teckeley*, who but few days before was encamped near the *Mark*, thought not fit to purſue them any further, but to return to mind the great Affair, which now drew near: The Enemy loſt beſides thoſe kill'd on the place, ſeveral Kettle Drums, and above twenty Colours in their Retreat. His *Highneſs* with ſingular Courage and Bravery conducted this Engagement with the Enemy, but too much expoſed his Perſon, as he does too often upon all occaſions. We are here ſtill intent, and at the Eve of our great buſineſs,

ſineſs, the Relief of *Vienna*. His Majeſty of *Poland* with above *Twenty Thouſand* Men will be with us in ſeven days. *Bavaria*, *Saxony* and *Franconia* have already ſent us *Seven and Twenty Thouſand* Men, and we are above *Twenty Thouſand Imperialiſts*. If God be not againſt us, I hope in a few days to ſend you a Relation of a glorious Victory. My Lord *Lanſdowne* did particularly ſignalize himſelf in this Action, being alway's in that part of the Fight where it was hotteſt, and he is certainly a very gallant young Man.

From the Grand Viſier's *Camp at Midnight*, Septemb. 12*th*. 1683.

For the Earl of Carlingford *at* London.

WE have relieved *Vienna*, but if the Victory be not ſo compleat, as we promiſed our ſelves it ſhould, it proceeded only from the Cowardiſe of our Enemies, whom from Morning till Night we drove before us, beating them from Poſt to Poſt, without their having once the Courage to look us in the Face, and that through ſeveral *Defiles*, [i.e. *Narrow Paſſages*] which had they any reaſonable Courage we could never have

have forc'd. The Combat held longeſt where the King of *Poland* was, but that only added to his Glory, he having beaten them with the loſs of their Canon, and a great number of their Men; They have left us their whole Camp in general, with their Tents, Bagg and Baggadg, and time will tell us more particulars. We intend to follow them to morrow; and it is impoſſible but there muſt be much more than we yet know; If night had not come on, at our very entring the Suburbs, we had certainly given them a total overthrow. My Lord *Lansdown* hath done me the Honour to accept the Command of a Troop of Horſe in my Regiment; He is a very brave Youth, and Courts all Occaſions to ſhew his Courage, and to diſtinguiſh himſelf; attracting the Friendſhip and Eſteem of all our Army. I am juſt now told we have taken all the *Grand Viſier's* Treaſure, you ſhall hear more by the next.

From the Grand Viſier's *Camp at Midnight*, Septemb. 12. 1683.

For His Excellency the Marquiſs *of* Grana *Governour of the* Spaniſh Netherlands, *&c.*

INſtead of *Vienna* being relieved, and the *Turks* utterly defeated, I beg your pardon, if I tell You, that the Siege is only raiſed, and the Enemy

my forc'd to fly away, which was not our fault for from *Kalemberg* as far as *Filberg-Baſtie* we purſued them from Hill to Hill, and from one *Deſile* [i.e. *from one narrow Paſs to another*] to another, they never having the Courage to ſtand before our Troops. I refer my ſelf for the reſt to *Monſieur Preudhomme*, who is a very good Man, and deſerves a Reward for the News he carries, in the which he bore a very particular Part, but leſs than he hoped, through the Cowardiſe of the Enemy, and I beg he may receive ſome Mark of your Favour. I have heretofore told you, that the King of *Poland* is *le plus honeſte homme* of his Kingdom, and I muſt now tell you again, that there are few Kings now in the World who deſerve better to be ſo than himſelf; and that his *Competitor*, our Duke of *Loraine*, hath performed all the Parts of a great Captain and excellent Soldier, and hath withal ſo managed Matters, and found the way in this Conjunction of our Troops to accommodate ſo many Majeſties and Electoral Highneſſes and Soveraign Princes together, that there hath not been the leaſt diſpute or difference ariſen amongſt them. I take the Freedom to ſend you ſome of our Plunder from the *Turks*, being a very ſmall preſent: We have taken all the Enemies Tents

in

in general, and you will admire the moderation of our Troops, who amidſt ſo great a booty, purſu'd the Infidels from Camp to Camp; neither Officer nor Souldier once offering to touch any thing till they had firſt made ſure of the Victory. I cannot yet learn the number of the Canon taken, nor how many were kill'd on the right Wing, againſt whom the King of *Poland* fought in Perſon, Monſieur *Preudhomme* will tell you the reſt. 'Twas night before we got hither, which hindred us from purſuing them farther, but to morrow early we ſhall be at their heeles. I am for ever,

Yours, &c.

From the Camp near Preiburg, Septemb. 22. 1683.

For the Earl of Carlingford *at* London.

I Did my ſelf the Honour, my Lord, to give you a rough Draught of the Action of *Vienna*, the very ſame night that it happen'd, by an Officer of the Marquiſs of *Grana*'s, whom he ſent Expreſs from *Flanders*, to bring him that great News, and I muſt add, that never Victory of ſo great Importance, coſt ſo little blood. There were no Officers kill'd on our ſide but the Brother of the Prince *de Croy*, the Count *de Trantmanstorf* Major, the Count *de Batzi* Captain of

of Dragoons, and ſome people of quality amongſt the *Poles*, who ſtood the ſhock of a very rude Encounter, with a Tranſcendent Bravery. If the *Grand Viſier* had been Maſter of his Trade, we could never have paſt from the Hills of *Kalemberg* to *Vienna*, without a bloody and deſperate Engagement, and upon very diſadvantageous Terms, we having three terrible *Defiles* to paſs from the Mountains to the City; But God did ſo infatuate them, that they let our Foot and Dragoons quietly poſt themſelves in ſuch manner, as to ſecure our Cavalry, who paſſing but one and two at a time poſted themſelves under their very Noſes. Their Retreat was ſo haſty that they left us all their Artillery in general, and the Account being made they are found, what in their Approaches and Camp, to amount to above *One hundred and Twenty* Pieces of Canon, with a prodigious quantity of Proviſions both of Ammunition and Victuals, and all their Camp, without giving themſelves ſo much Time as to take down a Tent. The Field was covered every where with all ſorts of rich booty; Our *German Troops* marching through the middle of all this Spoyl, and not a Soldier, either Foot or Horſe went one Step out of his Rank to pillage, and we value

value the glory of this Continence and Exactneſs of military Diſcipline more than all the Booty of the *Poles*, which was incredible, All the *Grand Viſier*'s Treaſure fell to their ſhare, the King confeſſeth he hath gotten great Riches and the Equipage of the *Grand Viſier*'s alone, which fell to his Lot is valued at *One Hundred Thouſand Crowns*. The *Poles* have alſo taken the Great Standard of *Mahomett*, and the Horſe Tails which the *Sultan* himſelf gave the *Grand Viſier* on this great Expedition. Some of our Cavalry next day in rummaging their Tents, found betwixt *Five and Six Thouſand Duckats* in ready Money, and amongſt other things the Imperial Reſident, who following the Army, was forgot behind their Camp, who aſſured us, that ſince the beginning of this Siege, their Army was leſſened *Seventy Thouſand Men*, and the *Turkiſh* Priſoners avow, that of *Forty Thouſand Janizaries* which came before the place, there are not gone off *Eighteen Thouſand*. If night had not come on us, at the very *Suburbs* of *Vienna*, we had made it an entire Victory; having already gain'd the *Defiles*, and the Enemy was in an extream Confuſion, and had we but two hours more of Day-light, we ſhould have driven them to the little River of *Shwechet*, where we

might have had them at our Mercy, but they paſt it in the night, and though the Duke of *Loraine* would have next Morning purſued them at Break of Day, yet the King of *Poland* thought it not fit, becauſe his Horſe had not drank in *Eight* and *Forty hours* before: But thoſe who are given to detract ſay, that the *Poliſh* Troops, with whom the King is ſometimes obliged to comply, had demanded one day more, to make an end of pillaging the *Turkiſh Camp*. We hope before the end of this *Campagne* to take ſome Place on the *Frontier*. *Teckeley* applys himſelf to the King of *Poland* for his Mediation. The *Grand Viſier* enrag'd at this ſhameful loſs, has ſince cauſed the Heads of the *Viſier* of *Buda*, of two *Baſſa*'s and Five hundred Officers to be cut off, this will be a ready way to make an end of his Army, if he kill thus on one ſide, and we on the other. *Adieu*, *In fine*, it was high time to ſuccour *Vienna*, there being two conſiderable Breaches in both the Baſtions, and half of the Curtain undermin'd, the Garriſon which conſiſted of *Twelve Thouſand Men* reduced to *Four Thouſand*, and certainly never any Garriſon behav'd it ſelf better. I am endeavouring to get a Draught of the Place, and the Attacks to preſent to the King and his Royal

Royal Highneſs, and here's an Engineer upon the Place has promiſed to do it very well. My Lord *Lanſdowne* will have the Honour to ſee the cloſing of this *Campagne*, as thinking it not ſufficient to have bore his Part in the Relief of *Vienna* and defeating the *Turk*. It were to be wiſht the Elector of *Saxe* had taken the ſame conſideration along with him, but he quitted the Army the very day after the Succour of *Vienna*, finiſhing his *Campagne* with the Glory of Relieving the Town. The Elector of *Bavaria* with his Troops as well as thoſe of *Franconia* march with us ſtill, being reſolved to ſee the end of this *Campagne*.

From the Camp near Barrakan *over againſt* Gran, Octob. 14. 1683.

For the Earl of Carlingford *at* London.

I Sent you a ſhort Account of the Relieving of *Vienna*, and of the ſhameful flight of the Enemy from before it, of which that advantage was not made that might otherwiſe have been by reaſon of the backwardneſs of the *Poles* to follow the purſuit next day. But the *Grand Viſier* being enrag'd at this Diſgrace, diſcharged his Fury upon the Officers of his Army, having ſtrangled the *Viſier* of *Buda*, a Man of Eighty years of Age, (and as he was

perhaps the moſt able Perſon of the *Ottoman* Empire, ſo would he have prov'd the more dangerous Enemy to him) with four other *Baſſa's*, and *Four or Five Hundred* other *Officers*, upon pretence that they did not do their parts, and diſobeyed his Orders. The Count *Budiani* an *Hungarian Lord*, who after our Retreat at *Raab*, revolted with a conſiderable Party of his Country-men to the Rebel *Teckeley*, to give the Emperor a convincing Proof of his ſincere Repentance, cut in pieces *two thouſand Auxiliary Turks* that the *Grand Vifier* had ſent to reinforce him, and tho the advantage we got by his Treaſon was very great, yet we could not but abhor the Traitor. On the *Fifth* inſtant the *Poliſh* Army with our Cavalry paſt the *Danube* at *Gomorra*, leaving our foot one days march behind; but the Duke of *Loraine* having reſolved to attack *Barrakan*, was forc'd to ſtay ſome time for the Foot, becauſe thoſe of *Bavaria* were for ſome unhappy Reaſons ſix days march from us: The King being told that there were not above *Five Thouſand Turks* in *Barrakan* made his Troops haſtily advance towards it, without once acquainting his Highneſs with the Deſign, and thinking himſelf ſure, and that his very Avaunt Guard would have carried it, he did not ſo much as

march

march his Troops in *Battalia*, but his Ambition and the great contempt he had of the Enemy upon the Succeſs of *Vienna* coſt him dear; inſtead of the *Five Thouſand Men* which he was told of, he found in a bottom under the very Cannon of *Barrakan* a Body of Twelve Thouſand, who inſtantly attackt the Avaunt Guard of the *Poles* with ſuch a Fury, that though they behaved themſelves bravely, they were at laſt forc'd into their main Body, and that in ſuch confuſion, that the whole Army which had not then time to draw up into *Battaile* ſeized with a panick Fear had been entirely routed, had not the Duke of *Loraine* (who by this time heard of the Kings departure) made his Troops haſtily follow, and ſo kept them from farther diſorder. My Brigade had this day the Avaunt Guard, and his Highneſs ordering me to make haſte, tho we had a *Defile* to paſs about half an hours march from the Enemy, yet our Troops carryed on with a deſire to redreſs the loſs, and repair the affront received by their Allies, paſt it with all chearfulneſs, and ſo in a very little time we drew up in a Line of Fifteen Squadrons. The Arrival thus of our Troops put ſoon a ſtop to the Carriere of the TURKS, and gave us an Opportunity thereby of paſſing the

reſt

reſt of our Men, and to the *Poles* of knowing each other. The Enemy thus contenting themſelves with the advantage they had gotten over the *Poles*, retired in good order into the bottom where they were firſt, and we thought it not then ſafe to follow them farther with the *Poles*, who were, as it were ſtund with the blow they had received, and under an apprehenſion that the *Grand Viſier*'s whole Army was there; They thereupon encamp'd themſelves about an hours diſtance from *Barrakan* near the *Danube*, and the King was then of opinion to ſtay for the coming up of the Foot, before they ſhould attempt any thing farther. There were about *One Thouſand Poles* kill'd moſt of them Dragoons, who having alighted from their Horſes in a Plain were abandoned by the Horſe, and ſo cut in pieces by the Enemy; the King ventur'd as far as any Man with his uſual undaunted Courage, and had it not been for a *German Cavalier* that ſerv'd him, he had then certainly been either kill'd or taken Priſoner, and his Majeſty in Requital made him a *Colonel*. The next day the Mareſchal *Comte de Staremberg* who ſo bravely defended *Vienna* came with *Eight Thouſand* Foot to us. The *Poles* were ſo diſheartened by their wounds, which were yet bleeding, and apprehending

hending, that the *Grand Viſier* with the reſt of his Army might be near at hand, that they did endeavour to divert the King from any farther vigorous Action at that time, but the Duke of *Loraine* did ſo ſtrongly preſs the contrary, that they were at laſt brought to it. We march'd in *Battalia* the ninth inſtant towards the Enemy, his Highneſs giving the *Poles* their choice where to poſt themſelves, but inſtead of the right wing which till then they always affected, they divided themſelves on both the Wings, and on our Reſerve. The Enemy ſeeing us thus march towards them came out of their bottom, ranging themſelves in *Battaile*, and by the Confeſſion of thoſe Priſoners that make them the moſt, the *Turks* did not exceed *Sixteen Thouſand Men*, and certainly there never was committed a greater nor worſe ſupported raſhneſs, but yet they ſtood us with that boldneſs at firſt, that the whole *Grand Viſier's* Army could not have done more, and not being able to front our whole Line, they drew up to the Right, and without once attempting to attack the *German Squadrons* fell with an incredible Fury on thoſe *Poles* they found on our Left, hoping to find as cheap a buſineſs of't as they had done the day before: But the Great General of *Poland Iablonouski* receiv'd them ſo briskly,

briskly, that it ſtopt their Fury, and at the ſame time we charging them with our firſt Line of *Curiaſſeers* put them totally into diſorder. The Defeat of thoſe was immediately followed with a general Rout of all their Troops, and the ſhock of the firſt Line of our ſaid Left Wing was ſo vigorous and ſucceſful, that neither my Lord *Lanſdowne*, to whom I had given the Command of a Squadron in my Regiment, nor I my ſelf, who commanded the Second Line of the Wing that was attacked had either of us occaſion to fire a Piſtol: His Highneſs let looſe the firſt Line of *Curiaſſeers*, the *Croats*, and ſome *Poles* to the purſuit of thoſe that fled, whom we chaſed with the points of our Swords in their backs to the very Fort of *Barrakan*, making a moſt terrible Slaughter of them, the Crowd of thoſe that thought to ſave themſelves by the Bridge was ſo great, that the Bridge broak under them, and there were abundance of them who threw themſelves into the *Danube* rather than they would ſtand the Fury of our Men, and the Revenge of the *Poles*. It is moſt certain that with thoſe who were ſlain, and thoſe who were drown'd, the better half of their Number periſhed, and one ſhall ſeldome find in a pitch'd Battle a greater loſs of Men, theſe were

were the very flower of the *Turkiſh Army*, commanded by the new *Viſier* of *Buda*, *Ali Baſſa* of *Aleppo*, and Six other *Baſſa's*, the *Viſier* of *Buda* was kill'd, the *Baſſa's* of *Aleppo* and *Sileſtria* are taken Priſoners, and a third *Baſſa* was drown'd. We have alſo ſaved about ſix hundred Priſoners from the Fury of the *Poles*, and there are certainly taken above *three thouſand Horſes* and at leaſt as many drown'd. The taking of *Barrakan* was a conſequence of this Victory, our Men entring it vvithout Oppoſition, though there vvere ſeveral *Janizaries*, and many others retired into it. But the *Poles* having firſt ſackt and pillaged, ſeeing ſome of their Comrades heads vvhich the *Turks* had pitch'd in Parade all along the Pallizadoes of the Fort, did brutally in Revenge burn that place of Importance vvhich vve vvould have preſerved. Let us however give thanks to God vvho has thus ſo viſibly ſhewn himſelf in his ovvn, and our Cauſe by delivering our Enemies into our hands. I ſhall continue to Give you a Faithful Relation of vvhat paſſes here, and do intreat you to communicate it to His Majeſty and the Duke.

A Letter from an *Engliſh Nobleman*, a Voluntier in the *Imperial Army*, to his Father at LONDON.

From the Imperial Camp before Gran, *October* 10. 1683.

My Lord,

THE ſame day that we delivered *Vienna*, I ſent your Lordſhip the News, by an Expreſs that was diſpatched to the *Marquiſs* of *Granā*, and have ſince given your Lordſhip a larger Account thereof; ſince which we have without oppoſition advanced in *Hungary*, and ſome ſix days ago with the *German* and *Polſh* Horſe croſſed the *Dannbe* at *Gomora*, leaving our Canon and Infantry behind us, reſolving after one days march, it leading us into a Country of Forage, to ſtay for them; but the King of *Poland* having Advice, that *Four Thouſand Turks* had paſſed the River at *Gran*, by break of day next Morning, without giving any notice to the Duke of *Loraine*, marched with his Dragoons and *Huſſars* towards them, but finding them much ſtronger than he was informed they were, his Majeſty was beaten, and his Troops in great diſorder, and his perſon in danger, and purſued by the Enemy till they ſaw our Horſe appear, which by good luck marched ſome two hours after the *Polanders*, by the Duke of *Lorain's* Command, who was in the head of them; upon which the *Turks* ceaſed their purſuit, and retired under the Canon of *Gran*, and we encamped within ſight of them till the next day the *Eight* inſtant, that our Infantry came up to us, upon which yeſterday we marched in *Battaile*

taile towards them, and found them posted in the same posture to receive us; the first Line of our Left Wing about noon charged their Right with so much vigour & Success, that the Infidels were forced to give way, and not long afterwards their whole Army betook themselves to flight, and were pursued by ours to the River side, into which they precipitated themselves, insomuch that very few of them escaped, after this the same night we attacked *Barrakan*, a Fort on this side of the *Danube* at the head of the Bridge of *Gran*, and have taken it by Assault; Our Prisoners tell us, they were Sixteen Thousand Men chosen out of the best of their Troops, and sent thither by the *Grand Visier* to hinder us from ruining that Bridg, by which they had their Communication with the Rebels, *Caramamett Bassa*, lately made *Visier* of *Buda*, who commanded there in chief was kill'd upon the place; *Ali Bassa* of *Aleppo* and the *Bassa* of *Silestria* are taken Prisoners, another *Bassa* is drown'd, and their loss to speak modestly of it, exceeds the number of *Eight Thousand Men*. The frequent occasions of Action we meet with, hinders me from quitting the Army as yet, altho most *Voluntiers* of any Consideration, except our Countrymen, are already returned; and that the season in this Country is very troublesom, nay not supportable, were it not for the continual Favours I do dayly receive from my Lord *Taaff*, and as occasion offers from his *Highness*, and all the chief Officers of the Army, some of my Servants being dead, and almost all sick, I am with utmost respect,

My Lord,

Your, &c.

Another Letter *from the ſame hand directed as the former.*

From Presburg, Novemb. *the* 7*th.* 1683.

My Lord,

IN My laſt to your Lordſhip, I gave an Account of the Battle we gain'd over the *Turks* near *Gran*, and our taking *Barrakan* by Aſſault the ſame day, ſince which we have croſſed the River, beſieged and taken *Gran* it ſelf, and that without any great loſs, they having within three days after our Batteries were finiſhed asked to capitulate and ſurrender the Place, with their Cannon, Munition, *&c.* up to us. After this, there being no proſpect of any more *Action* this year, upon the firſt inſtant I left the *Army* with the Elector of *Bavaria*, and waited on him as far as *Gomorra*, where I left his Electoral *Highneſs*, and went my ſelf to *Raab*, not being willing to leave unſeen a place, which all over this part of the World is called *Propugnaculum Chriſtianitatis*, from whence yeſterday, through a burnt and deſolate Country I came hither, where I found my Brother *John* and Mr. *Alman*, whom I was ſurprized to find at this time of the year making towards the Army; I muſt confeſs I am heartily ſorry that my Brothers Sickneſs did hinder him from meeting me going to the Army in *July*, inſtead of coming from it in *November*; for then he might have ſeen three ranged Battles fought, beſides skirmiſhes with the Infidels, the famous Siege of *Vienna* raiſed, a Fort ſtormed, a Town antiently of great Note, the *Metropolis* of *Hungary*, and long in Poſſeſſion of the *Turks*, beſieged and taken at the later end of *October*, and ſeveral other Places and Caſtles of Importance, rendred to the victorious Arms of the *Chriſtians*, which

which is more than has been, or than probably will be ſeen in any three Months this *hundred years*; from hence I intend to ſet out to morrow for *Vienna*, and from thence to *Lintz* to wait upon his *Imperial Majeſty* before my return, from whence I will immediately, in obedience to your Lordſhips commands, diſpatch Mr. *Alman* for *England*: And as for my Brother whom you are pleaſed to commit to my care, do aſſure your Lordſhip, that as I have nothing but what I hold from your Goodneſs; ſo all that I have ſhall be in common between us, and believe me ever with utmoſt reſpect, *My Lord*, Your, *&c.*

Lintz Jan. 4 1684.

For the Earl *of* Carlingford *at* London.

ABout two days ſince I received two of your moſt welcome Letters, one whereof had (in ſeems) firſt made the Tour of *Hungary*, I am overjoyed to hear that the King and his Royal Highneſs ſeem ſatisfied with my Relations, becauſe they are two Perſons whom I Infinitely Love, and Reverence as I ought, and whom I very well know to be of moſt diſcerning Judgments; I confeſs I am proud to think that I have ſome part in their good Opinions. My Lord *Lanſdowne* hath been pleaſed to ſet too great a value upon thoſe little Services I have done him, he is a very brave Cavalier, and the moſt obliging, beſt conditioned Man I know, and as he does me the *Honour* to love me, ſo he would procure me the like Favour with my Lord his Father, whom I moſt highly honour. The Emperor ſends him into *England* with the quality of a Count of the Empire, to ſhew the conſideration he has for brave Men, and although it cannot add any thing

thing to the Luſtre of his noble Family, yet his Poſterity will have no reaſon to be diſpleaſed at his having gain'd it upon ſo glorious an occaſion, nevertheleſs I deſire you to publiſh nothing of this without the permiſſion of my Lord of *Bathe*. We have now by the taking of *Gran*, otherwiſe *Strigonium*, finiſh'd our *Campagne*, notwithſtanding the oppoſition of the *Poles*, who did all that was poſſible to divert us from it, in a Seaſon which in truth was not ſo proper to make War. The Eaſineſs that the Duke of *Loraine* found in making a Bridge, convinc't him of the Conſternation the Enemy was in, and that he ought to make the beſt uſe of it. *His Highneſs* paſſed the *Danube* without the *Poles*, and in ſpight of the Rain that fell continually, he puſh't on the Siege with that Vigour, that at the end of five days he made himſelf Maſter of the Town, it is a place not ſtrong, ſave only by its ſcituation, nor conſiderable, but for paſſing the *Danube*, and commanding a great extent of the Country; It is the *Metropolis* of *Hungary*, and in the laſt Age coſt the *Chriſtians* as well as *Turks* a Siege of ſeveral Months. This taking of *Gran* was ſoon followed by a Reducement of the Rebels, who of themſelves came in and begged Pardon. The *Poles* for their Quarters choſe the upper *Hungary*, promiſing to reduce *Caſhau* and *Eſperies*, but finding greater oppoſition then they imagined, they rather choſe to leave it, then run the Riſcue of ſo troubleſome a Quarter, but the *Imperialiſts* made ſure of theirs by the taking of *Leutſch* and many other Caſtles, from whence they drove the Rebels. There are who ſuſpect an underſtanding betwixt ſome of the Poliſh Officers and the Rebels, but for my own part I believe nothing of it, and the reaſon why I ſuppoſe they did

not

not reduce *Caſchau*, was becauſe they wanted both Foot and Proviſions, thinking that by the ſole Reputation of their Arms, and preſence of the King, they might have carryed it, and beſides that, beſieging of Towns is not their buſineſs. My Lord *Lanſdowne* will bear me Witneſs that I did all was poſſible even before your ſending to me, to find out a Couple of fine *Turkiſh Horſes* for you, but upon my word we could find none worth the trouble, for all that were better then ordinary were taken by the *Poles*, and other of our Generals, who were more eager after plunder than my ſelf, I have bought a *Turkiſh* Tent without ſeeing it, but they ſay it is very fine, with ſome *Turkiſh* Arms, which are alſo curious in the kind, which I intend to ſend by way of *Hamburg*, and you may make a Preſent of them to the King or Duke, if you think it worth their *Acceptance*, or otherwiſe diſpoſe of them as you think beſt. I will ſend you when you pleaſe the Duke of *Loraine*'s Picture, and I will, if I can, procure that of the King of *Polands* too. My Lord *Lanſdowne*'s Courrier is juſt a going, ſo that *I* cannot now ſay any thing of the buſineſs of *Newheuſell*, but will by the firſt ſend you an Account of that, as well as other matters which I purpoſe to write you. *I* am for ever *Yours*, &c.

Lintz Jan. 5. 1684.

For the Earl of Bathe *at* London.

My Lord,

I Know not what my Lord *Lanſdowne* can have written to your Lordſhip in my Favour, to draw from you ſuch obliging Expreſſions of Civility and Goodneſs to me, as I find all your Letters fill'd with, the Truth

Truth is, it is I, who have a Thousand Obligations to my Lord, your Son, for making his Campagne with me, and giving me so distinct a mark of his Friendship, as there is not a gallant Man of the greatest consideration in all the Army but would think himself honoured with it. *He* found us in a Condition which would have discouraged any man but himself; Our *Army* by reason of the great Garrisons which we were forced to leave in *Raab* and *Vienna* reduced to a flying Body of *Seven Thousand Horse*, the Court in Retreat, which might have justifyed him if he had followed so great an Example, but he would finish what he had begun, and the truth is we may date our good Fortune from the time that he came amongst us. *He* had a part in the defeat of the *Turks* at *Presburg*, *Kornneigburg*, *Vienna* and *Barrakan*, and in the taking of *Gran*, *He* hath signalized himself every where, and done like the Son of such a *Father*, and so illustrious *Ancestors*; and if he have suffer'd in this Campagne, which was one of the rudest that we have made a long time, he returns loaded with Glory, and the marks of a particular esteem from *His Imperial Majesty*, and leaves a memory of his Person behind him, which will ever do honour to his *Family* and *Country*; I pray God, my Lord, that you may long enjoy one another, and that I may enjoy you both. I will seek all occasions of meriting by my most humble Services that part in the honour of your *Favour*, which you allow me before-hand by a meer effect of your Generosity, and that I may have the means to do it, I conjure you as soon as may be to send us back our Lord *Lansdowne*. The King can employ no Person in this Court, who will be more acceptable, or more capable to serve him. I am with respect,

My Lord, Your most humble and most obedient Servant,

TAAFFE.